Working of US Embassy

393. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether normal work in US Embassy and Consulates in India have been affected;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what has been the effect thereof on the trade and issue of visas to the people; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to check the hardship to the Indians?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Normal work in the US Embassy and Consulates in India and other countries was affected following a stand-off over the budget between the US President and the Republican dominated Congress which led to a temporary "shut-down" of the US Government. During this six-day period, the US Embassy and Consulates were providing only emergency visa services. Following the Senate's approval of a bill on November, 19 to permit funding of the US Government till 15 December, 1995, consular services resumed at normal levels starting November 20, 1995.

(c) Does not arise.

Alleged Nexus between Traffic Police and heavy Vehicular Traffic in Delhi

394. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the traffic crossings are the gold mines for the traffic police in Delhi;

(b) whether the fatal accidents and the safety on the roads are compromised because of the nexus of the traffic police and the heavy vehicular traffic particularly Red Line Bus Drivers; and

(c) if so, the action proposed by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. MEIJINLUNG KAMSON): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Officials found indulging in mal practices are subjected to prompt punitive actions. There is no evidence of a nexus between Delhi Traffic police and Redline Buses and other buses. They have prosecuted 70,000 Red Line Buses and 90,000 other buses, impounded 2,200 buses and arrested 3,000 drivers. Delhi police have initiated a number of steps to reduce the number of road accidents and the resultant fatalities.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.